

Patent Application
Attorney Docket No.: 27124-2

REMARKS

The following remarks are in response to the Office Action mailed on August 6, 2007. Prior to entrance of this Amendment, claims 1-20 were pending in this Application. Upon entrance of this Amendment, claims 3, 5, 8, 10-13 and 17-20 will remain pending in this Application.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 9 and 14-16 stand rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by U.S. Patent No. 6,554,781 (hereinafter "Carter"). Claims 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,826,578 (hereinafter "Curchod"). Claims 3, 5, 8, and 10-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims. Finally, claims 17-20 are allowed.

Response is hereby made to each of the above-noted rejections and objections.

As a starting point, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 5, 8, 10-13, and 17-20. Applicant has herein amended claims 3, 5, 8, 10 and 11 in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims from which these claims previously depended. Claims 12 and 13 as previously presented now depend from an allowable base claim. It is believed, therefore, that claims 3, 5, 8, 10-13 as presented after this amendment are all allowable.

In order to advance prosecution of this application, Applicant has herein cancelled, without

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prejudice, rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 14-16. It should be understood that Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 14-16 and is only cancelling these claims at this time to advance the prosecution of this Application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 14-16 as pending, or claims having a scope consistent with these claims, in a later application.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application should be allowed. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned below if it will aid in the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date:

February 6, 2008



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